The Member then complained about the arbitrary manner in which the questions put by members were dealt with by the President, and stated that the non-official members who were anxious to take an active part in the working of the Committee were being very much discouraged by the attitude of the official President. He, therefore, urged the necessity for a non-official President for the Committee.

The Member then made the following suggestions to remedy the evils:—

1. *Establishment.* The pay and allowance of the official President was a burden on the Committee and the appointment of a non-official President or of a Bacteriologist as the President would relieve the Committee of a great financial strain. In the alternative the Member suggested that the Sanitary Commissioner be appointed as the President of the Committee and that he be assisted by a non-official Vice-President.

2. *Conservancy.* The removal of rubbish and nightsoil was not attended to properly. They were most injurious to the health of the people in the town. The distribution of carts and bulls for the purpose in the various wards was not properly done. The carts were not repaired and unserviceable ones were not replaced in time. There was no one responsible for the proper condition of the nightsoil carts and they were thrown about on the road sides which was quite undesirable. An officer of the grade of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector should be put in charge of the carts and bulls. The depositing of nightsoil at the beach injuriously affected the public health. Adults and not boys should be appointed as drivers of the carts. The rules sanctioned by Government under date the 26th June 1895 and 10th July 1896, defining the duties of the Health Officer and the Sanitary Inspectors, should be enforced.

3. *Finance.* The assessment of house-tax was done very indiscriminately. The system of imposing tax on the vehicles was not satisfactorily worked. There were certain irregularities in the matter of the collection of scavenging fees. The Revenue Inspector submitted to the Committee a statement for about Rs. 700 on account of arrears of scavenging fees to be written off the accounts as irrecoverable in the Fort Ward alone for the first three quarters of 1094 and that statement included certain items which had already been recovered. The occupants of houses, T. I. C. Nos. 38, 44, 52, 58, 67, 95, 330, 483, 481, 467, 307, 311, 386, 169 B, 169 A and 163 and many others had paid the amounts and the payments were supported by receipts; yet the amounts were shown as irrecoverable. Further, the register of scavenging fees maintained in the office and the duplicates of the receipts granted to the payees were missing and it could not be known how the above statement of irrecoverable amounts was prepared. The Member suggested that the collection of scavenging fees should be entrusted to Section Overseers, as such a step would prevent the writing off of large arrears under that head every year and also reduce the scope for misappropriation of the fees collected by Aminadars.

4. *Overseers.* Only persons holding the School Leaving certificates or at least those who knew how to read and write Malayalam should be appointed as Overseers. Such a step would improve the situation very much and also serve as a source of relief to many qualified men who were unemployed.

Dewan's reply.—A detailed report will be called for from the Committee regarding the statement of irrecoverable amounts on account of scavenging fees. The other points are noted.

105. Necessity for allowing a non-official President for the T. I. C., Trivandrum.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) urged the necessity for a non-official Chairman for the Trivandrum Committee, as repeatedly urged before the Assembly, and laid stress on the principle of appointing non-official Presidents for Municipal Bodies as also the advantages accruing therefrom. The financial condition of the Trivandrum Committee was deserving of consideration. Though it had the largest income, it was seriously handicapped in respect of its needs. The annual receipts of the Committee were about Rs. 70,000.

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The pay and allowances of the two chief officers of the Committee, the full-timed official President and the Health Officer, were a great drain on the Committee's funds. The expenditure on that account was too much for the Committee to bear. Considering the services rendered by official Presidents, he was of opinion that non-official Presidents could very well satisfy the needs of the Committee and that was the unanimous resolution of the Committee also. So far as the Health Officer was concerned, opinion was divided, one for maintaining the Health Officer and the other for appointing a medical man as Vice-President. In conclusion, he prayed that Government might be pleased to appoint a non-official President for the Trivandrum Committee as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

106. Certain suggestions for the improvement of sanitation in the town of Shencottah.

Mr. N. Subbiah Thevar (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) said that the local Committee was one of the poor Committees in the State and had been looked upon by the people of the place as a sort of burden imposed on them. The people who were mainly agriculturists were unable to bear the heavy expenditure they had to incur an account of the establishment of the Town Improvement Committee. Though the annual expenditure of the Committee came up to Rs. 4,000, no work of importance was being turned out. In view to improve the public health of the place, the Member submitted the following proposals for the consideration of the Government :—

(1) The tank situated at the eastern end of the Kulathupuzha road should be deepened and widened.

(2) The Perumalkulam within the town should be filled up.

(3) Drains should be constructed on the sides of the roads within the town limits.

(4) The local Distillery should be removed from its present site to the place selected for constructing a building for holding the Divisional Forest Office, Shenkottah Division, the Divisional Forest Office being shifted to the present Distillery building.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

107. Requirements of the Town Improvement Committee, Mavelikara.

Mr. K. Krishna Panikkan (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) requested that the lands, comprised in Survey No. 112/1 B in the Mavelikara *pakuthi*, be placed at Committee's disposal for constructing a building for holding their office. The Member then said that the Presidents of the Committees at Trivandrum, Alleppey and Parur had been granted carriage allowance. In the Committee's Budget Estimate for 1095 submitted to Government a sum of Rs. 50 had been provided for under 'Travelling allowance to officers', but Government declined to sanction the allotment. He requested that a carriage allowance might be sanctioned to the President of the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the carriage allowance to the President, the question will be reconsidered if a representation is made by the Committee again. The other point is noted.

108. Need for further Government support to the Town Improvement Committee, Kottayam.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) represented that the award of grants to the various Town Improvement Committees was regulated by G. O. No. G. 2283, dated the 13th May 1913. Under that G. O., the Kottayam Committee was given only Rs. 2,000, while Committees of comparatively less importance got more. The Member did not understand on what principle the grants were sanctioned. If population was the basis, Kottayam should come next to Trivandrum, for, it was a town which was rising in importance as a centre

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